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208
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SPAWN

Todd McFarlane and Image Comics Present

JON GOFF
Plot

TODD McFARLANE
Additional Plot

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WRITER

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COLOR

TOM ORZECHOWSKI
LETTERING

PREVIOUSLY IN *SPAWN*

Jim and Twitch face off in the alleys, and Twitch finally obtains visual proof of Al's demise.

Detective Craig Rowand finds himself in a face off of his own at the hospital with a sadistic nurse, who's not following protocol with Sam's treatment. When the bloody fight moves up on the roof, Rowand learns he's not dealing with the average medical staff, but something far more unexplainable.

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SPAWN CREATED BY
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image
TODD McFARLANE PRODUCTIONS
SPAWN.COM

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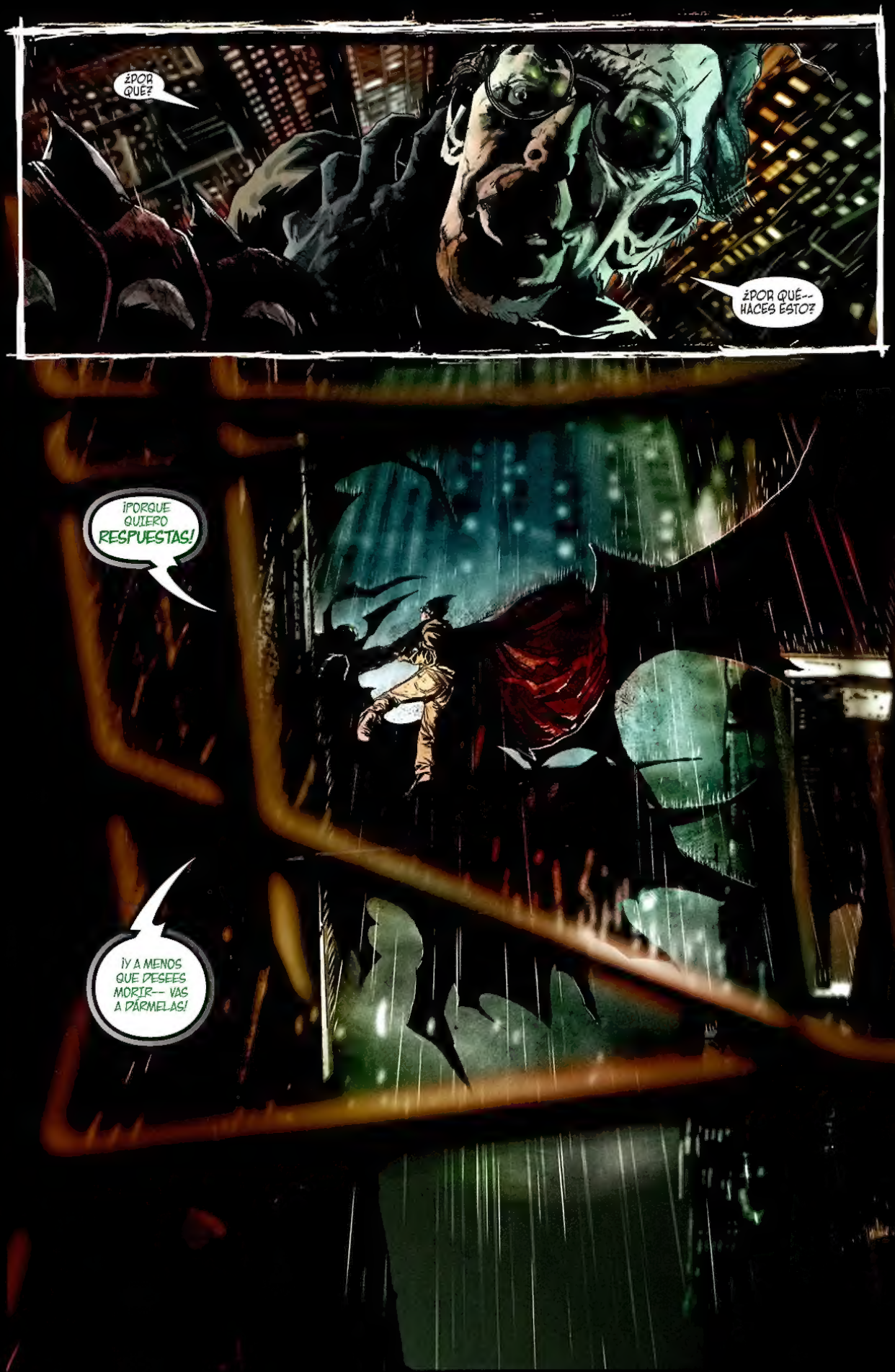
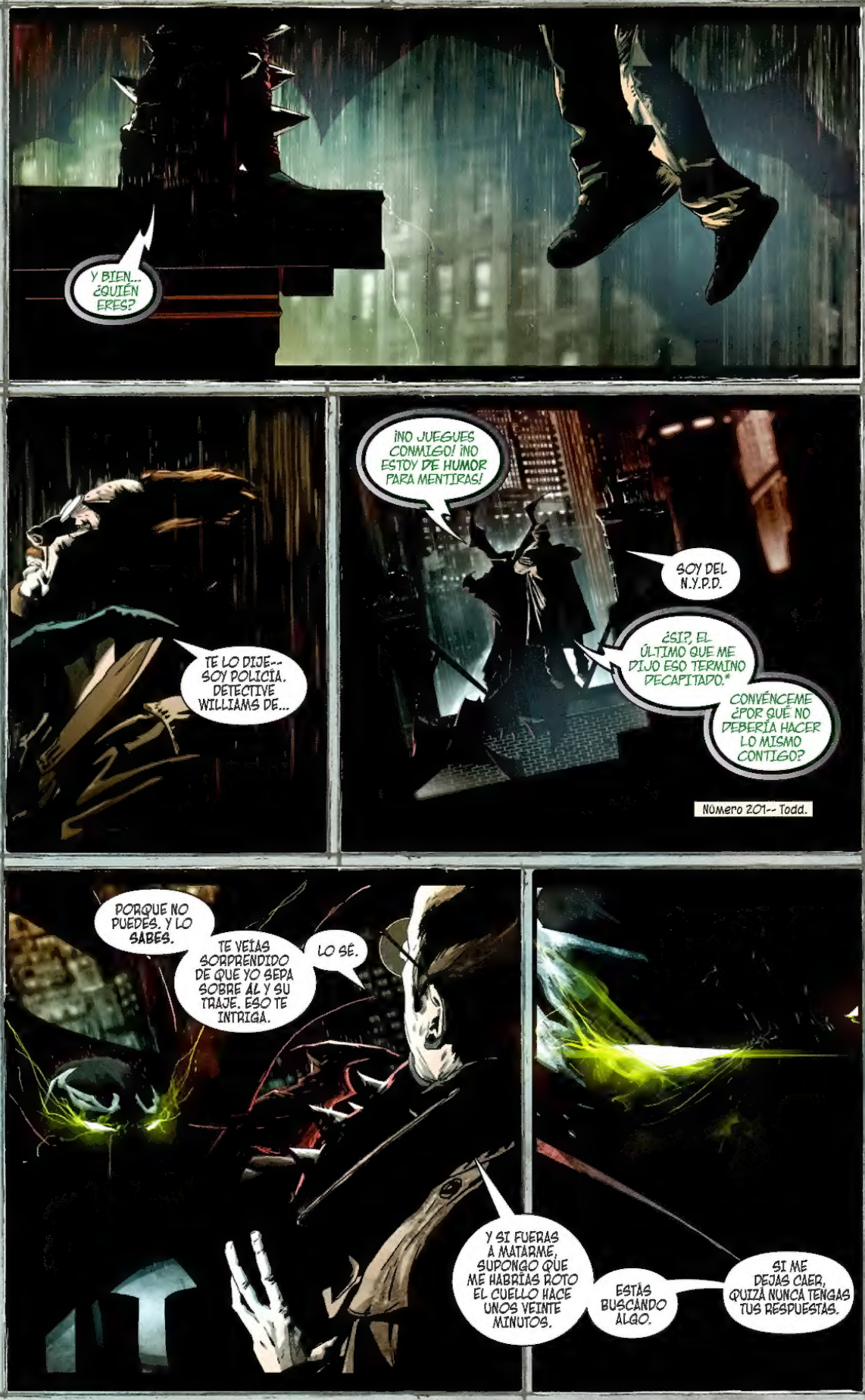

¿POR QUÉ?
¿POR QUÉ-- HACES ESTO?
¡PORQUE QUIERO RESPUESTAS!
¡Y A MENOS QUE DESEES MORIR-- VAS A DÁRMELAS!


Y BIEN... ¿QUIÉN ERES?
TE LO DIJE-- SOY POLICÍA. DETECTIVE WILLIAMS DE...
¡NO JUEGUES CONMIGO! ¡NO ESTOY DE HUMOR PARA MENTIRAS!
SOY DEL N.Y.P.D.
¿SI?, EL ÚLTIMO QUE ME DIJO ESO TERMINO DECAPITADO.*
CONVÉNCEME ¿POR QUÉ NO DEBERÍA HACER LO MISMO CONTIGO?
Nomero 201-- Todd.
PORQUE NO PUEDES. Y LO SABES.
TE VEÍAS SORPRENDIDO DE QUE YO SEPA SOBRE AL Y SU TRAJE. ESO TE INTRIGA.
LO SE.
Y SI FUERAS A MATARME, SUPONGO QUE ME HABRÍAS ROTO EL CUELLO HACE UNOS VEINTE MINUTOS.
ESTÁS BUSCANDO ALGO.
SI ME DEJAS CAER, QUIZÁ NUNCA TENGAS TUS RESPUESTAS.

NO CREO QUE SEAS TAN ESTÚPIDO.

LAS ESPECULACIONES SIGUEN EN TORNO A LA IDENTIDAD SUPUESTO SANADOR MILAGROSO DEL CENTRO DE MANHATTAN. MIENTRAS, LA POLICÍA CONTINUA BUSCÁNDOLO, ELLOS SE REHÚSAN A CONFIRMAR SU NOMBRE, AUNQUE NUESTRAS FUENTES SEÑALEN A UN SOLO INDIVIDUO, JIM DOWNING. A SI MISMO ES DIFÍCIL RATIFICAR EL VIDEO AMATEUR DE LA SUPUESTA RESURRECCIÓN DE LA VICTIMA DE UN ACCIDENTE DE TRANSITO. YOUTUBE HA REGISTRADO QUE EL VIDEO FUE VISTO MÁS DE MEDIO MILLÓN DE VECES, SOLO EN UN PAR DE HORAS.

SI, COMO LOS DOCTORES ESTÁN TRATANDO DE CONSTATAR, EL MISTERIOSO HOMBRE SANO REALMENTE AL FOTÓGRAFO CAÍDO SOLO CON SUS MANOS, LAS COMUNIDADES MEDICAS Y RELIGIOSAS ESTARÁN MUY INTERESADAS EN LO QUE ÉL VAYA A DECIR.

JIM DOWNING, EL MISTERIOSO SANADOR MILAGROSO DE MANHATTAN, CONTINUA CON ÉXITO EN LA MENOS MILAGROSA HAZAÑA DE EVADIR CONTROLES POLICIALES CON SU NOMBRE ESCRITO EN ELLOS. MIENTRAS TANTO, HAY INTRIGA POR VER QUIEN CONSIGUE LA PRÓXIMA ENTREVISTA CON EL REDENTOR.
EL ANUNCIO ES QUE EL SHOW DE KARLENE PHILLIPS REPETIRÁ LA PRIMERA APARICIÓN TELEVISIVA DEL SR. DOWNING HACE ALGUNOS DÍAS. NO DUDARÍA QUE ELLA TAMBIÉN ESTÉ COMERCIALIZANDO UN DVD CON TOMAS NO VISTAS EN TV. ¡APROVECHALO, NENA!

CON TODA ESTA ATENCIÓN DE LOS MEDIOS, FUERZAS DE SEGURIDAD Y LA COMUNIDAD MEDICA, EL SR. DOWNING PODRÍA FÁCILMENTE SER EL MÁS GRANDE HECHO PERIODÍSTICO DESDE EL BIEN CONSIDERADO CORTE DE PELO DE JUSTIN BEIBER. ¡SE ESTÁ HABLANDO INCLUSO DE QUE CONDUZCA LOS OSCARS! ¡BRAVO!

YO PIENSO QUE ES BRILLANTE, LA MANERA EN QUE ÉL ESTÁ CONSTRUYENDO SU MARCA.

¡¡NOS VAMOS Y CORRIENDO!!

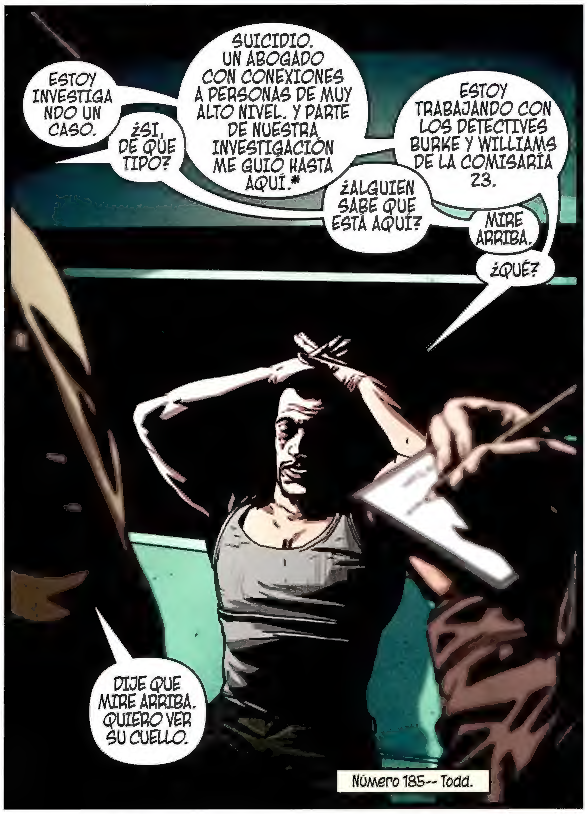
AHORA NOS DICEN QUE ESTE NUEVO PERSONAJE, DOWNING, ES EL NUEVO MESÍAS. POR FAVOR, TODOS, DEJEN DE ARRODILLARSE. PRIMERO, ¿ALGUIEN ESCUCHÓ COMENTARIOS DEL PRESIDENTE OBAMA?, PENSÉ QUE ÉL ESTABA DESTINADO A SER EL ÚLTIMO Y MÁS GRANDE MESÍAS.

AMIGOS, ¿ELLOS REALMENTE CREEN QUE SOMOS DÉBILES MENTALES? LAS POSIBILIDADES DE QUE SURJAN NUEVOS MESÍAS EN LOS DOS MAYORES EMPORIOS MEDIÁTICOS SON ¡¡INCALCULABLES!!

DE TODOS MODOS, ¿DESDE CUANDO DEJAMOS QUE LOS MULTIMEDIOS PRINCIPALES NOS DIGAN QUIEN ES SANTO DE NUESTRA DEVOCIÓN? YO NO SÉ USTEDES, ¡PERO MI FE NO VA A SER RAPTADA POR UN VAGABUNDO RECHAZADO DE UN ASILO MENTAL!... AL MENOS, ¡NO SI PUEDE RESUCITAR A MI PRIMERA ESPOSA! ¡EL PRÓXIMO MOVIMIENTO ES TUYO, CAMARADA!

¿ENTIENDE LA MIERDA CON LA QUE VOY A TENER QUE LIDIAR, DETECTIVE ROWAND? DÍGAME-- ¿QUÉ PRETENDE QUE HAGAMOS AQUÍ? ¿TIENE IDEA DE LO MAL QUE SE VE ESTO?

¡LOS PUTOS MEDIOS VAN A CONVERTIR ESTA TORMENTA DE MIERDA EN NOTICIA DE PORTADA! ¡NADIE VA A QUERER VENIR A DARSE NI UNA VACUNA ANTIGRIPAL DESPUÉS DE ESTO! QUIERO QUE ME RESPONDA UNA SIMPLE PREGUNTA.
¿QUÉ DEMONIOS HACE EN MI CIUDAD? ¿VIRGINIA NO ES LO SUFICIENTEMENTE EMOCIONANTE PARA USTED?


ESTOY INVESTIGANDO UN CASO.
¿SÍ, DE QUÉ TIPO?
SUICIDIO. UN ABOGADO CON CONEXIONES A PERSONAS DE MUY ALTO NIVEL. Y PARTE DE NUESTRA INVESTIGACIÓN ME GUIÓ HASTA AQUÍ.*
ESTOY TRABAJANDO CON LOS DETECTIVES BURKE Y WILLIAMS DE LA COMISARÍA 23.
¿ALGUIEN SABE QUE ESTÁ AQUÍ?
MIRE ARRIBA.
¿QUÉ?
DIJE QUE MIRE ARRIBA. QUIERO VER SU CUELLO.

ME DICEN QUE LA ENFERMERA LE HIZO ESO. ¿ES VERDAD?

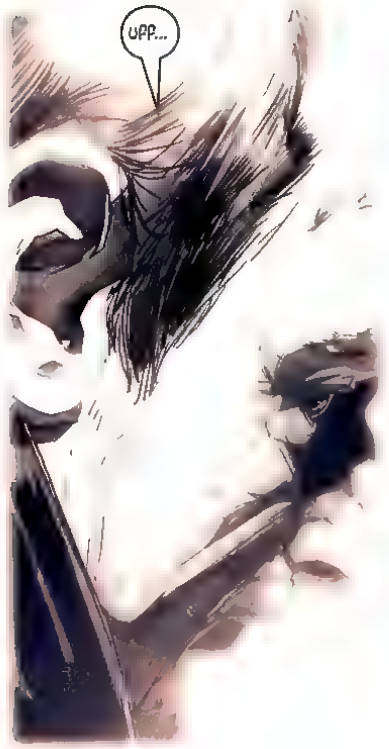
SÍ.
EL DESPACHO DIJO QUE UN "MONSTRUO" LO ATACÓ. QUE USO LA PALABRA "MONSTRUO" PARA DESCRIBIR A SU ASALTANTE. ES MUY RARO QUE ALGUIEN USE ESA PALABRA. ¿QUÉ QUISO DECIR?
QUE ELLA NO ACTUABA COMO UN HUMANO. ESO QUISE DECIR. HAGA SU TAREA, Y LLEGARÁ A LA MISMA CONCLUSIÓN.
NO NOS DIGA COMO HACER NUESTRO TRABAJO. NO SOMOS LOS QUE DETONAMOS ENFERMERAS EN MEDIO DE LA NOCHE. SOLO CUÉNTENOS DE ESE MONSTRUO SUYO.

ESTABA ESPERANDO AL DETECTIVE WILLIAMS, CUYO COMPAÑERO YACE EN UNA CAMA ESCALERAS ARRIBA. ÉL ME PIDIÓ QUE VENGA A CUIDAR DE BURKE, QUE VIERA COMO ESTABA. CUANDO LLEGUÉ A SU PISO ME PARECIÓ QUE TODO ESTABA DEMASIADO TRANQUILO. ASÍ QUE FUI A SU CUARTO.
CUANDO ENTRÉ, LA ENFERMERA ESTABA ENCIMA DE ÉL.

QUIERO DECIR QUE ESTABA LITERALMENTE SOBRE ÉL ATACÁNDOLO. Y SU MANO DERECHA ESTABA A CENTÍMETROS DE INJECTARLO CON-- NO LO SÉ-- CON ALGO. LE ORDENÉ QUE SE ALEJE DE BURKE, Y ANTES DE QUE PUDIERA HACER ALGO ELLA YA ESTABA EN MI CUELLO.
ELLA ERA SORPRENDENTEMENTE FUERTE-- Y RÁPIDA. NO SÉ COMO ES QUE SE MOVÍA ASÍ. Y YO NO PODÍA REACCIONAR. CALCULO QUE ELLA ESTABA BAJO LOS EFECTOS DE UNA GRAN DOSIS DE DROGAS, ANFETAS. COCA. NO LO SÉ.
PERO PUSE DOS BALAS EN SU PECHO Y CINCO MAS EN SU ESTOMAGO-- Y AÚN ASÍ NO SE DETENÍA. NO HASTA...

¿HASTA QUÉ?
HASTA LA AZOTEA.
NO SÉ COMO LLEGO HASTA AHÍ. NO PARABA DE BROTAR SANGRE DE TODO SU CUERPO.
HABRÁN VISTO LA CONDICIÓN EN LA QUE ESTABA CUANDO LA ENCONTRARON. ¿LO HAN HECHO?
¿ENCONTRARLA? EH-- SÍ, YA LO HEMOS HECHO.
NO FUE MUY DIFÍCIL HACERLO.

¿QUÉ ESTABAS PENSANDO?
EL COLOR DE TU SANGRE DICE QUE ERES HUMANO.
INTERESANTE.


UFF...

HOLA.

¿QUIÉN ANDA AHÍ?

Jesus cristo
¿MAX...?
NO... PUEDE... SER.
HEY, PAPÁ. HA SIDO MUCHO TIEMPO.
¿HIJO?

MAX-- ¿ERES REALMENTE TU?
TU MADRE Y YO TE HEMOS EXTRAÑADO TANTO.
LO SE. ELLA ME HABLA CADA NOCHE.
ESTÁ PERDIDA SIN TI. LO VEO EN SUS OJOS.
LO LAMENTO, PAPÁ.
¿POR QUÉ DICES QUE LO LAMENTAS? ¿POR QUÉ?
POR TODO. SIMPLEMENTE LAMENTO TODO.
NO LO HAGAS. TU NO TIENES LA CULPA. FUI YO-- SOY EL UNICO QUE DEBERIA ESTAR...
PAPÁ.
ESO NO ES IMPORTANTE, ¿OK? NO ES POR LO QUE ESTOY AQUÍ.
NECESITO QUE ME ESCUCHES. ALGO MALO VA A PASAR.
ALGO REALMENTE MALO.

¿QUÉ ES LO QUE PIENSAS DE ÉL?
DIFÍCIL DECIRLO. ME AGRADA QUE ESTUVIERA SUPUESTAMENTE PROTEGIENDO A UN OFICIAL CAÍDO. Y QUE NO HAYA NADIE EN EL HOSPITAL SUENA DEMASIADO HASTA PARA UN POLICÍA CORRUPTO.
SÍ, DEJO AL AYUNTAMIENTO NO LO VA A IMPRESIONAR QUE NUESTRO ÚNICO TESTIGO SEA DETECTIVE FORASTERO CUYO ESTADO MENTAL PUEDE SER FÁCILMENTE PUESTO EN TELA DE JUICIO DESPUÉS DE ESTA NOCHE.
¿QUÉ OPINAS? ¿ÉL TUVO ALGO QUE VER CON TODO ESTO?
SABEMOS QUE TUVO QUE VER. LA CUESTIÓN ES-- SI LO DE ÉL FUE ACCIÓN O REACCIÓN.
¿DEBERÍAMOS INVOLUCRAR A LOS FEDERALES?
AÚN NO.
PRESIONÉMOSLO UN POCO MÁS, VEAMOS DONDE NOS LLEVA.

AQUÍ TIENE
GRACIAS.
ROWAND-- AYÚDENOS A ENTENDER UNA COSA--
NÚMEROS DE TELÉFONO, CUENTAS DE TARJETA DE CRÉDITO, Y LA FIRMA DE ABOGADOS EN LA QUE ÉL TRABAJABA. TENÍAN CLIENTES CON NEGOCIOS EN AMBAS CIUDADES. LA ÚLTIMA PERSONA CON QUIEN MI DIFUNTO HABLÓ ERA DE AQUÍ.
DIJO QUE ESTABA INVESTIGANDO UN CASO EN VIRGINIA. ¿CUÁL ES EL NEXO CON NUEVA YORK?
TAMBIÉN DIJO QUE ESPERABA AL DETECTIVE WILLIAMS, PERO NADIE PUDO UBICARLO HASTA AHORA-- ¿TIENE IDEA DE DONDE PUEDA ESTAR? ESPECIALMENTE DADAS LAS, USTED SABE...
"LAS CIRCUNSTANCIAS ACTUALES.

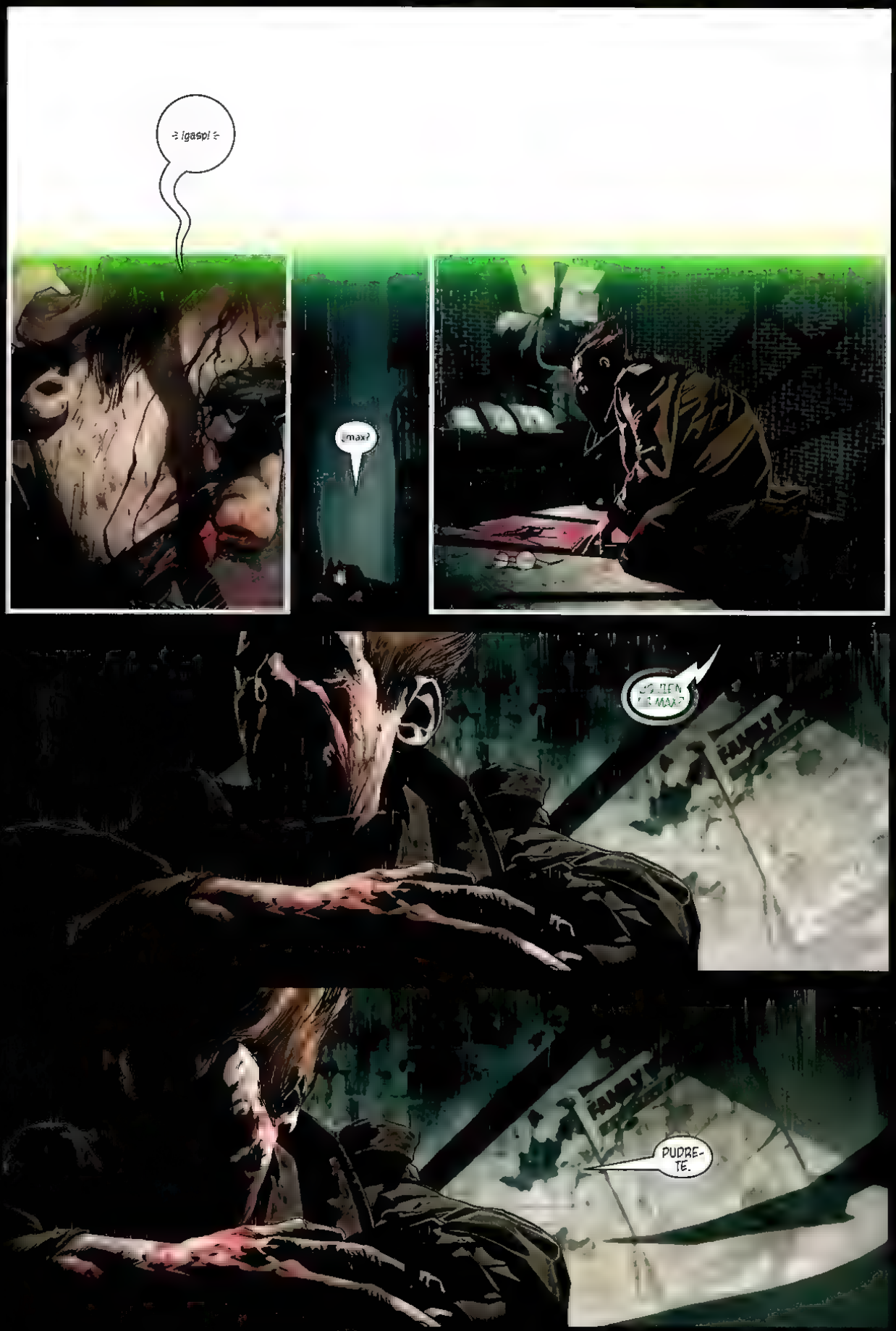
NO ME LO DIJO.
¿NADA? ¿NO LE DIÓ ALGUNA REFERENCIA DE DONDE ESTABA?
SOLO QUE ESTABA YENDO A VER A UN VIEJO CONTACTO SUYO.
DISCULPE SEÑOR, LAMENTO INTERRUMPIRLO. SÉ QUE NO QUIERE QUE LO MOLESTEN, PERO...
¡ESPERO QUE SEA BUENO! ESTAMOS EN MEDIO DE UN INTERROGATORIO.
¿INTERROGATORIO?
¡MANTENGA LA PUTA CALMA ROWAND! AHORA, ¿DE QUE SE TRATA, NOVATO?
ENCONTRAMOS ALGO. ¿PODRÍA VENIR CONMIGO?

SÉ QUE ESTO QUIZÁS SEA MUY ABRUMADOR PARA TI, PERO NECESITO QUE LO ESCUCHES.
¿RECUERDAS CUANDO ME RESCATASTE DE AQUELLOS VAMPIROS Y LUEGO DE ESA CASA?* BUENO, CUANDO ESTUVE ALLÍ HICE ALGUNAS ESTUPIDECES. Y QUEDÉ ATRAPADO CON LAS PERSONAS EQUIVOCADAS ANTES DE QUE ME SALVARAS.
PERO LA COSA ES QUE-- EN REALIDAD NO ME SALVASTE. SÉ QUE LO INTENTASTE, PERO YA ERA TARDE. YA NO ERA YO. YA NO ERA EL MISMO, ERA DIFERENTE.
SOY DIFERENTE.
MAX, ESO NO TIENE NINGÚN SENTIDO.
¡PAPÁ!
ESCÚCHAME.
POR FAVOR... SOLO ESCÚCHAME. NO TENGO MUCHO TIEMPO.
ESTOY INTENTANDO PROTEGERTE. COMO TU LO HACÍAS CONMIGO. Y NECESITO EXPLICARTE ALGO, PERO-- ES COMPLICADO.
Y NO PUEDES DECIRLE A MAMÁ QUE ME VISTE. O ELLOS VENDRÁN POR ELLA.

*Número 131-- todd

¡MIERDA!
¡NO!
¿QUÉ PASA?
ADIOS, PAPÁ..
TE AMO
¡NOS MATARÁ A TODOS!
ÉL ESTÁ TRAS EL TRAJE--- EL TRAJE DEL SR. SIMMONS. NO PUEDES DEJAR QUE LO TENGA. NO LO DEJES TOMAR EL CONTROL.
PERO TIENES QUE SABER SU NOMBRE. BLUDD. SU NOMBRE ES BLUDD. ¡TIENES QUE DETENERLO!
¡ME ENCONTRARON! ¡DEBO IRME!
¡MAX!
RECUERDA--- SU NOMBRE ES BLUDD.
¡NO!
¡NO TE VAYAS! POR FAVOR NO ME DEJES...
...OTRA VEZ.*

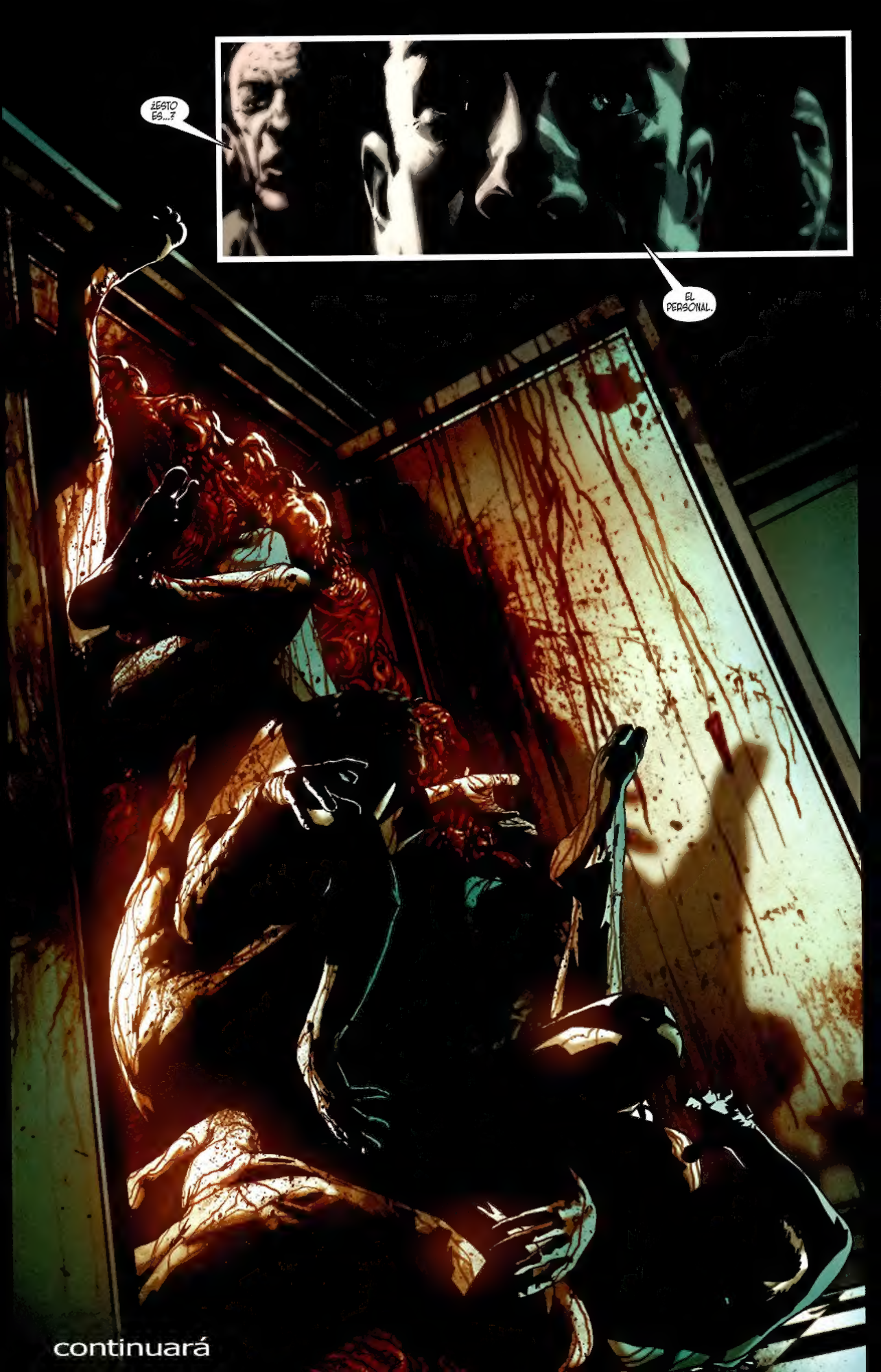
*Ver CASE FILES 6 Por la muerte del hijo de Twitch --Todd

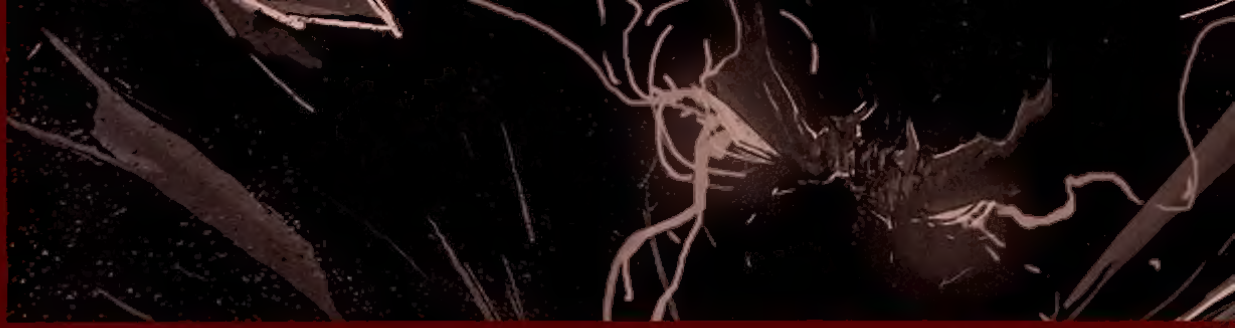

¡gasp!
¿max?
¿QUIÉN ES MAX?
FAMILY
FAMILY
PUDRE-
TE.

ESTOY CANSADO DE HABLAR CONTIGO
NO PUEDO
COMO DIJISTE -- NO PUEDO PERMITIRME MATARTE. TODAVÍA NO.
¿Y SI ME NIEGO?
YA SABES LA RESPUESTA A ESO Y PARECES SER ALGUIEN LO SUFICIENTEMENTE LISTO COMO PARA NO QUERER MORIR
QUE TAL SI ME CUENTAS SOBRE MI TRAJE-- Y AL SIMMONS, Y CUALQUIER COSA QUE QUIERA SABER.
ROMPISTE MIS GAFAS.
IMBÉCIL
NO PENSABA TENER QUE COMPRAR OTRAS PAR NUNCA MAS
ESTO ESPERANZA
¿EN SERIO?
¡BIEN! PORQUE VAS A SEGUIR ASÍ ¡NO ME GUSTAS! Y LUEGO DE DEJARME CAER DE ESE EDIFICIO, ASUMO QUE EL SENTIMIENTO ES MUTUO. NUESTRA DESCONFIANZA DEL UNO POR EL OTRO QUIZÁ SEA LO ÚNICO QUE TENGAMOS EN COMÚN.
Y YA SEA QUE TE DES CUENTA O NO, VAS A NECESITAR MI AYUDA PORQUE ALGUIEN QUIERE ESE TRAJE QUE LE ROBASTE A AL. Y SI LO CONSIGUEN, ¡ESTAMOS JODIDOS! NO SOLO TU Y YO... SINO TODOS.
Y, AUNQUE PREFERIRÍA NO HACERLO, TE DIRÉ LO QUE SÉ...

POR AQUÍ, DETECTIVES.
¿ESTO ME VA GUSTAR?
POR ALLÍ, AL OTRO LADO DE LA ENFERMERÍA.

HABLA RODGERS-- ESTAMOS EN LA ESQUINA NORESTE DEL PISO DIECISIETE. LA ORDEN ERA CERCAR EL PERÍMETRO ÁREA. ¿HAN COMENZADO?


¿ESTO ES...?
EL PERSONAL.
continuará



SPAWNING GROUND

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Hi everyone,

Each month, as Todd and I go over the letters and questions fans submit, it fascinates me how passionate people are about this title and character, and how much they have to say! While some may think we choose to fluff our pages up with letters praising the content we put out each month, it's simply not the case. Each email or Facebook/Twitter question that comes across our desks is given equal consideration in whether we choose to print it or not. I must admit, however, that a vast majority of the content you provide us with tends to be positive.

As far as letters expressing criticism, as long as the writer has a valid point, and is respectful in posing his/her position, we're willing to put the letter in print. Todd isn't afraid to shy away from a different opinion or perspective. Heck, its one of the reasons why he helped found Image Comics!

This month we had some great letters from individuals whose opinions ran the gamut. We appreciate people taking the time to write in and ask questions or provide statements that intrigue, provoke, inspire, or sometimes just make us plain proud of the product we put out on a monthly basis.

Jen Cassidy

Managing Editor

Todd,

I just finished reading #207 and was reading the letters page, which inspired me to write in. Over the years *Spawn* has not interested me, and besides reading the first few issues and hearing about Sam & Twitch and other things around the book, I have not actually followed the series.

Issue #201 hit the stands and my comic shop owner told me I needed to be reading *Spawn*. I was reluctant, to say the least, so he gave me issues #201 and #202. Now, I'm hooked. I love the new style and approach to the book. It has been a little text heavy at times, but issue #207 moved like a freight train. The words and story just flowed beautifully. As a long, long time comics fan I, too, grow tired of the generic super hero art and story. This book has a great noir quality and yet remains its own thing with vampires and other supernatural elements. I'm sure I'm missing some things, as I don't have a long history with *Spawn*, but I don't feel left out. I just feel like I'm learning it as I go along. *Spawn* is rapidly going up my chart as one of the best series on the stands.

It was great to see you answer about what you do as an editor. I wish all editors had that much involvement in the books they work on. I know as the owner of the character you should care about it, but the way you described your role was what all editors should be doing – checking the work and making sure a long term plan is in place, and that you are moving towards a goal. I often find myself reading a series, wondering how this material got published, as a good editor would have helped to craft the work and bring out the best in their writers and artists. Too often it is a production environment, and deadlines are more important then quality, which does a disservice to the creators and customers.

Anyway, if you lost a few old fans with the change, at least know you are generating some new fans along the way.

Jim M.

Thanks for listening to your shop owner! Glad to have you on board! Appreciate the kind words on our new direction.

Sadly, our business IS deadline driven. It's just the nature of the beast, just the way that it works. Because of that, you're right, many things can slip through the cracks. There's an old adage, "Do you want it good, or do you want it Tuesday?" You have to balance the need to do something perfect with meeting your date.

We try to add time to our schedule for me to review all the colors, lettering, pacing, fixing up anatomy, if need be, etc. Even after the book comes out, my team and I do a postmortem on the issue to point out necessary revisions for the trade paperback. We never assume we get it right the first time. Hopefully, people notice the difference, but even if they don't hopefully, they just enjoy the book more. If you're enjoying the book, it means we're doing more things right than wrong, and I appreciate you giving us a chance.

- TODD

Dear Spawning Ground,

I have been collecting your comic since issue #1, and it happens to be the only comic that has lasted past #100, let alone 200 issues, so congratulations! I would like to stick in my two cents, however, on a few topics, if you don't mind.

First of all, I know how much you have defended your decision on changing the format to a more mature, realistic book, but I must very respectfully disagree with you as I feel comics, as well as most books, movies and art in general, are meant to take you away from reality into your own fantasy world; an escape from the realism on T.V. news, newspapers, and outside our very windows.

As far as the artwork is concerned, I respect it for what it is, but we can view a hyperrealism bowl of fruit painted on canvas and say, "WOW, looks like I could eat that apple!" But at the end of the day, it is still just an apple, lacking any imagination – the imagination that was evident in the early years of *Spawn*.

I must also point out that the inking in *Spawn* lately, has been way too heavy. It certainly sets a mood, however, you cannot see the above mentioned realistic art, nor even tell at times what is going on in the panels. All this being said you will never lose me as a reader; I'm in way too deep.

My second point is this new Spawn, Jim. It took me a long time to realize that Al is gone, and while I like the fact that all Spawns are different with different powers, Jim is not even dead! Furthermore, his power of healing is more like the power of an Angel than that of a Hellspawn. I'm sure

SPAWNING GROUND

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all questions will be answered eventually, but these two facts are driving me crazy.

Lastly, will you ever have another toy line that is not Halo or sports related? I used to love the detailed imaginative designs of the different creatures like Heap and Twisted Land of Oz series. The last cool toys we saw was the Zodiac line, but you only came out with two or three figures, while I was waiting for all 12 zodiac signs, but nothing....

Thank you for your time and for the years of entertainment you have brought me.

Robert V.

Schenectady, NY

Terrific letter, and let me see if I can respond to some of your questions. I think it's an overstatement and a broad statement to say what people expect out of their comic books, movies, and TV shows in one sentence. I think it's a statement that's been parroted a lot – people use entertainment for escapism. I get that, but not everybody does. If that were true, then there wouldn't be movies like *Erin Brokovich* – a movie that's based around something that's real. Some of the movies I love, like the *Insider,* are based on a true event. *The Green Zone* recently came out and was based on a true event, as well. *Hurt Locker,* although not based on a specific true event, was based on a real occupation.

There is still a portion of individuals, and I include myself in that portion, which want film and TV to teach us about the human condition. It's not about whether people can fly, but what they can do when put into extraordinary conditions. I'm fascinated by the human id. It's what drives all of us, and shows what we're capable of doing or not doing, depending on who we are as individuals. Trying to come up with some of those realistic moral dilemmas, instead of should I save the city from the guy who wants to blow up the world is much more interesting to me.

Also, if the stories are going more realistic, I believe the look has to match it, as well. Just think of it as an R rated drama, and the look makes a little more sense.

If indeed you are a guy that likes cool action flicks or raunchy comedies, then I can see how this look wouldn't appeal to you. I appreciate you sticking around and being loyal, but this might not be the right type of comic book for you, then. I hope it will grow on you, though.

In regards to the inking, it goes hand in hand with my statement above. In trying to place people in situations where there are a lot of shadows, that means we have to have a lot of blacks. We're trying to go for realism in a fantastic world.

Jim coming out of a coma, instead of truly dying will set him apart. That's the intent of introducing new characters into the fold – so you can see him do things the other Hellspawn haven't done before.

With our toy lines, sadly, a majority of the retailers that carried the product you mentioned no longer exist. The economy has shifted the way people do business, as well as the corporations we used to sell to. So, we continue to do more mainstream product because that's who our biggest audience is right now. We are, however, producing toys for *The Walking Dead* at the back half of the year, but we have to be cautious with choices moving forward.

- TODD

Mr. McFarlane,

Been a fan since #1. I own every single issue (minus 197 and 199) to date. Man I loved *Spawn.* Arguments with fans about other super heroes were fun, and enlightening. I just have a couple questions...

Wasn't the Brian Haberlin hype art for *Spawn* tried already--the "realistic" feel? Khary Randolph is sick. His artwork was super cool for the book, and when I picked up the issue he did, I was excited, even though I was aware that you were going to go through the artist carousel for a few issues. Do what you can to get that man on the book!

Greg Capullo is, and was, by far the best artist that ever worked on *Spawn* (unless you decided to come back). I know he is on *Haunt* now, and that's why I decided to purchase that book. All due respect to Szymon Kudranski, but his artwork IS NOT SPAWN.

Secondly, more of a statement/question combined... Spawn was one of the, if not the ONLY, CREDIBLE and VIABLE African-American superheroes around. The implications of having Al Simmons as your main protagonist were more than just having a superhero. It was cool and refreshing to see an African-American superhero. Now, we have a blond, blue-eyed white guy (I'm European). It's so tired and bland. It's very disappointing. I really hope that somehow, someway, you come out and tell us that Jim really is Al Simmons, and something went terribly wrong when he committed suicide. I'm sure you can come up with something creative...

I understand that you are trying to reinvent *Spawn,* and bring in new fans, but I implore you to please keep the fans in mind that have been fighting for *Spawn*'s survival as a respectable option for readers.

Thank you.

Smail M.

My plan is to have as many surprises along the way as possible. So, don't assume that everything you've seen so far is the final answer to all the questions you might have. My job is to continue to entertain on a monthly basis.

You're right. I was quite proud that we had an African-American superhero for 185 issues. However, now I'm moving in a new direction that could be construed as being more generic, but there's a bit of a master plan here. There are big story elements brewing in my head that still has Al in the shadows, as you've seen in some of the flashbacks. He's gone, but he's not forgotten, let's just say. It's not like I've dropped him completely. Even in this issue you just read, Twitch is in trouble because he knows too much about Al. The ghost of Al will always sort of be dangling around us, and I'll be able to pay homage to him in that fashion.

Greg Capullo is bar none the best comic book artist in the business. The reason you might like Khary's work over Szymon's is because you want full unadulterated, PG-13 action oriented. You'd choose movies like *Transformers* and *Thor* over what we're trying to do, which is *LA Confidential, The Departed,* and darker dramas, if you will. We still have vampires, angels and demons mixed in, but they aren't taking the typical comic book form that you may be used to. It's not a traditional comic book style *Spawn.* It was done intentionally.

-TODD

Michael H. from Facebook asks:

How far-along is the new *Spawn* movie now? Is the script at least completed? And will it be Al or Jim under the mask?

I'm still working on the script. It's probably about a month away from completion. It's an odd answer to your last question, but there really is no costume per se, with the way I'm writing it.

- TODD

Max S. from Twitter asks:

Is *Spawn* still under Image Comics, or just Todd McFarlane Productions?

Image Comics was founded in 1992. Its main purpose was to be a publishing house for creative people who brought their books to them. Image Comics does not own any of the books it publishes, it's just a publishing house.

My company, Todd McFarlane Productions, puts out comic books that we own, create, and do all the labor on. However, Image Comics puts them into Diamond Previews, and is the publishing house for the product.

- TODD

Jodi B. from Twitter asks:

What would it be like if Spawn had sci-fi power instead of supernatural?

Then he'd probably be fighting a bunch of aliens, doing a lot of time warping, and running into people who look like cheap knock offs of Star Wars characters.

- TODD

Kenny R. from Facebook asks:

Do you miss drawing Spidey?

You know, the odd time I do, but then I remember how long it took me to do the spider webs, both the ones that shoot out of his hands, and the ones on his costume. The amount of manual labor it took to draw that character was tremendous. As I'm getting older, and I must not have the same enthusiasm I once did, I can't say I'd want to stay up late at night and abuse myself the way I used to.

-TODD

NEXT ISSUE

Spawn 209
"Q&A" – PART 3 (of 4)

Jim gets a crash course in the "Curse of the Spawn" as he and Twitch form a temporary alliance. Jim wants answers; what is his connection to a dead man named Al Simmons? And why has he been given the powers of a Hellspawn? Twitch needs Jim to save Sam's life — a task far more complex and dangerous than either can imagine.

*Note: Cover subject to change